**Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur** *(Commissioner of Police)* : I want notice. The Cochin Police Officers are also given allowances, such of those as are living in towns are given Rs. 10 per mensem.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Cheruthuruthi)*: I want to know the exact expenditure involved on a comparison as to who gets more.

**Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur** *(Commissioner of Police)*: That depends upon the grade each Sub-Inspector gets there.

## VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### 19. Education, Rs. 19,81,465

* **Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: Mr. President, Sir, I request that the House would be pleased to vote an allotment of Rs. 19,81,465. It has been the usual practice with many members of this House on this side of the House and my practice also in the past, to preface these estimates with a speech. But I find from the number of cut motions tabled that any explanation of these estimates which have already gone through the drill of the Standing Finance Committee and which is going to some extent to be subjected to the criticism of this House in the form of cut motions, will be an inexcusable waste of your precious time and I do not, therefore propose to make any anticipatory speech by way of trying to explain away the point of these cut motions. The figures are there. They are very plain. They have already been subjected to very close scrutiny. The expenditure of this department is one with which the House and even the ordinary tax-payer is very intimately associated. As such, Sir, I do not think that there is any need for any speech from the member in charge of these estimates. Any effort at this state to make any explanation by way of anticipation will have the inescapable effect of trying to disarm criticism and I know that it will be very difficult to suit the cut motions by any such speech. I do not, therefore, propose to waste your time. I therefore request that the House may be pleased to grant this amount of Rs. 19,81,465 under 19. Education.

### CUT MOTION No. 1

#### Changes of text books

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Sir, I move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,816 for Direction and Inspection by Re. 1.* My object in tabling this motion, Sir, is to bring to the notice of the Government the hardship caused to the public on account of the *frequent change of text-books, particularly in war time.*

Sir, the educational expenditure forms a big item in the family budget of an average citizen of the State and the cost of books is certainly a comparatively large item in that big head. As regards the advisability of the change of books and all that, they are all controversial matters which I do not want to enter into at present. There have been long discussions about that subject. Any way, the House will agree with me in thinking at least that during this time of war when the cost of paper, and the cost of printing and everything of that kind has increased and when the people are finding it very difficult to make both ends meet, we can certainly dispense with a large number of text-books which I would consider a major portion of it is luxuries when compared with the necessities. I would, therefore, suggest that the Government should make it a rule that they should not change books for some time to come so that the text-books that are already there might be used by the students. When all is said and done, there is a syllabus which guides the studies and all these books when written by X, Y or Z will be more or less based on the syllabus and the ideas also, I understand, mostly the same. There may be slight difference in the language of the present author. I therefore submit that even if a change is necessary in normal times in the interests of any section of the public, I say it is highly detrimental to the interest of the parents particularly in these times. I therefore without making any further comment on that, request the Government to accept this and to give effect to it immediately.

**Mr. K. M. Ibrahim** *(Cranganur)*: Mr. President, In the Text-Book Committee to which this humble self has been elected by this Hon'ble House, as its representative in the last meeting of the Text Book Committee, I moved a resolution which tantamounts to the motion that is under discussion in this Hon'ble House now. As a matter of fact, I can assure the Hon'ble Members that this has not been the first time that this point of popular agitation has been put for the consideration of the Text Book Committee. There have been about half-a-dozen

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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occasions even before in the Text Book Committee, when I have been representing this popular opinion of this Hon'ble House. The subject never lacked a due advocacy. But I should say that as yet this agitation for putting a stop to such frequent changes of the text books has not met with as much response as was expected from the Government, and I take this opportunity to request the Government to consider this question in its new aspect. Now, we are placing it in a new light leaving alone the points of its merits or demerits in normal times. Now, we are putting it before the Government that at least to meet these abnormal times when things have gone four or five times in prices and every subject of His Highness is finding it difficult to make both ends meet, this point may kindly be considered by the Government with sympathy. At least as a temporary measure this frequent change of the text books ought to be suspended. I request the Government to expedite their kind consideration in this matter from a new angle.

**Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether there is any rule that these books cannot be changed for six years?

**Mr. K. M. Ibrahim** *(Cranganur)*: Not for all. There are some exceptions.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: With the exception of the two public examinations, the Sixth Form and the Third Form, no books should be changed for a period of 6 years.

**Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri)*: What is the difficulty?

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: I think the Hon'ble Member wanted that this rule should be strictly enforced.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Suppose the six year's period expires next year.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: In that case, Government have made their orders very clear in the case of books which have already run their term. If books of better quality are not available the old books may have the option of being re-prescribed. That is the Government order which I think will fully carry out the spirit of the cut motion.

**Mr. V. J. Mathai** *(Planters)*: Am I to take it that this rule is not strictly enforced.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: It is strictly enforced.

**Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon** *(Narakkal)*: There are several mistakes in the books selected.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: I cannot enter into an academical discussion of this. When a properly constituted committee which is competent to sit in judgment has declared that the books now prescribed are better than old ones, I see no reason why I should be called upon to question their judgment.

**Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri)*: What is the difficulty then to accept this proposition of not changing the books at least during these hard times.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: I never said that there is any objection.

**Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri)*: May I know the views of the Government on this matter?

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: We have absolutely no objection to accept it except that we do not accept the cut.

**Mr. V. J. Mathai** *(Planters)*: This is not the first time that the matter has come up before this House. My humble self was the sponsor of an identical motion which received, I suppose, the unanimous vote of this House and I am not afraid to say that the prescription of the text books was a scandalous affair. One cannot understand why these rules should be adhered to. For example take the primary books. You begin with A, B, C, D and then the next page will be c a t, cat and how history or the European or the world-war could change cat into tac I fail to understand. My point is that there is absolutely no meaning in changing the primers. A, B, C, D remains for ever from the time of Shakespeare or even from ancient times.

**Mr. M. L. Joseph** *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur)*: Then there is no necessity to change any book at all.

**Mr. V. J. Mathai** *(Planters)*: I wish to inform the House as to how very important it is. If you take the profit from a book to be six pies and you will find that the profits from one primer will be a lakh and more of annas and even more. The patronage is large and there was a hue and cry before this House that the patronage was being distributed on certain unholy grounds. That was the chief basis. To me it appears that there is no meaning in changing the primers, to say the least. As regards the necessity for not changing the books during war time, I suppose it is consistent with the established policy of the Government that as far as possible paper should be conserved as far as possible. It comes to this. If the text books are

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now changed the old books which are to be sold by the students to their successors cannot be sold. In the case of a family where there are five or six children, the elder brother can give it to the younger brother and so on. Therefore the consumption of books becomes far less than it would be otherwise. Therefore the non-change of the text books helps the people to a very great extent because the old books are obtained at half price. For all these reasons I suppose no emphasis is too much on the question of changing the text books as seldom as possible.

**Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri):* I move that the question be put.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction):* Since we have already accepted this recommendation and we are trying to implement the point of view I do not think any further explanation is necessary.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Cheruthuruthi):* There is some difference so far as I can think of. As the rules now stand if after the time of a particular book is over, Government have power to change it if there are other better books on the market.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction):* If the Committee finds that the book is sufficiently good, it should be given preference over other books so that it may continue. They have given the directions to the Committee.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Cheruthuruthi):* Why not Government make up their mind that at least during the time of war we may manage with the existing books.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction):* I thought that it would not be advisable to issue an order to the Committee and say that "you shall not change the books." Government have simply laid down the directions namely, that if the books whose prescription is going to terminate within a certain year which is found to be as good as any other its prescription should continue for another 6 years and the chances are that the rule will have the effect of the recommendation contained in the cut motion. I do not see that there will be any practical difficulty and if the Hon'ble Member apprehends that there is a fair possibility of this instructions being evaded, Government are prepared to exercise every possible vigilence in the matter.

**Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakkudi):* May I know, Sir, when the first period expires.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction):* I want notice.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Cheruthuruthi):* What made me anxious about it was the attitude taken up by the Committee itself, where the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur moved a resolution to stop changing the books during war even that resolution had to go for want of a seconder in that Committee. In the light of the assurance given to me that the Government have understood the true spirit of my token motion, I do not wish to press the motion. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

**Mr. K. Ayyappan** *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* What happened in the committee was this. Mr. Ibrahim moved this motion. The committee met to approve the books and they were not concerned with the matter of the motion then. Therefore there was not anybody to second the resolution and the resolution was not considered not because they were against the proposal.

**Mr. President:** It was ruled out of order.

**Mr. K. M. Ibrahim** *(Cranganur):* It was not ruled out of order. For want of a seconder and a resolution being ruled out of order are two entirely different things which I think the Hon'ble Deputy President must be knowing much better than I.

**Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakkudi):* Was it not on the agenda ?

**Mr. K. M. Ibrahim** *(Cranganur):* No agenda for the Text Book Committee.

*Motion, by leave, withdrawn*

## CUT MOTION No. 2

### Supply of stationery to the students departmentally

**Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri):* Sir, I rise to move *To reduce the allotment of Rs 6,816 for Deputy Inspectors, etc., by Re. 1.* My object is *(To recommend the supply of stationery to the students of the schools and colleges of the State departmentally at actual cost price during the time the war lasts).*

This is a very essential proposition, in this country where we used to write with our fingers on sand on the ground without any cost and later on on palmyra with an iron pointer. We had later the slates which would be broken occasionally and later on, we came to paper and pencil and fountain pen to boot. It is very costly, with the result that the expenditure for education mounted up terribly without the wherewithals for expenditure mounting up equally high. People's income more or less is steady and the expenditure is increasing day by day. I am glad that we have done something to effect some economy in the purchase of note books. Pencils are

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